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British Supremacy and Canadian Self-Government, 1839-1854. By J. L. MORISON, Professor of Colonial History in Queen's University, Kingston, Canada, late Lecturer on English Literature in the University of Glasgow. (Glasgow: MacLehose and Sons. 1919. Pp. xi, 369. 8 sh. 6 d.)

THE author of this study belongs to the younger school of Canadian historians. Canada has had more than enough of the popular type of general histories. She has long been sorely in need of the scientific investigation of particular movements and events. The present study admirably satisfies that need in respect to one of the most critical periods in Canadian constitutional history. The volume is indeed thrice blest; it is felicitous in expression, scholarly in treatment, and broad-minded in its interpretation of public affairs.

Professor Morison has handled his original material with unusual skill. His selections from the Bagot and the Elgin-Grey correspondence have been made with rare discrimination. But unfortunately he has failed to make full use of some of the more important secondary sources of information, such as the publications of the Ontario Historical Society and the newspapers of the day. The latter were perhaps the most important factor in the development of the constitutional life of these primitive communities, yet the author has seen fit to use them but sparingly, and even then has drawn the most of his data from two or three papers of the same party complexion.

One of the most admirable features of the book is the balance of its parts. Professor Morison has been singularly fortunate in combining the critical with the narrative in his treatment. He has been both a historian and a political scientist. He has been equally successful in bringing out the close interrelation of the personal and economic factors in Canadian history.

The viewpoint of the author is that of a staunch Liberal imperialist. As such, he is able to see both sides of the imperial problem and interpret the British and colonial positions most sympathetically. The chapter on the British colonial policy is perhaps the best piece of analysis in the book. But the very breadth of his imperial outlook sometimes makes him unduly critical of the petty factionalism of colonial politics on the one hand and the stupidity of Tory imperialism on the other.

The same political philosophy likewise colors his estimate of the political leaders of the period. He is inclined to glorify both the character and policy of the chief English and colonial reformers at the expense of their political opponents. Grey, for example, was undoubtedly the most far-seeing imperial statesman of the day; but the liberality of his constitutional principles for the colonies was offset to a large extent by the doctrinaire character of his imperial fiscal theories and also by the didactic nature of his despatches which alienated colonial opinion. The leadership of Baldwin, likewise, was subject to serious limitation. He

rescued colonial liberalism from the stigma of the Mackenzie revolt; he secured the triumph of the principles of responsible government, but he was unable and unwilling to adapt himself to the growth of democratic sentiment in his party and throughout the country. He was in truth a high-minded Whig churchman rather than a leader of modern colonial democracy.

The author's excellent handling of the imperial aspects of Canadian history brings out the more clearly the inadequacy of his consideration of Canadian-American relations. The influence of American life and institutions upon the social, economic, and constitutional development of Canada is scarcely less than that of the mother-country. Canada has not been able to escape from American political influences even though she would. The early history of the country is in many respects a long-drawn-out battle between English Tory and American democratic influences. The struggle resulted in a compromise, but evidences of the triumph of American principles may be seen in the municipal, ecclesiastical, and federal institutions of the country. Professor Morison unfortunately has almost entirely neglected to bring out the reaction of American institutions upon Canadian autonomy and the imperial connection. The failure to give due weight to this phase of Canadian development accounts in large part for the author's incomplete interpretation of the Clear Grit movement and the rise of the Liberal-Conservative party.

His treatment of the movement for Canadian federation is likewise too fragmentary. The desire for a union of the colonies was growing in strength even though it was oftentimes lost sight of in the petty squabbles of the legislature. The question was relatively unimportant at the time, but in the light of subsequent developments it deserved more attention than Professor Morison has seen fit to give to it.

But notwithstanding these limitations, this volume easily stands out as the best contribution to Canadian history in recent years. It is sincerely to be hoped that the author will continue his investigation of this field which he has made so distinctively his own.

C. D. ALLIN.

Jamaica under the Spaniards. Abstracted from the Archives of Seville, by FRANK CUNDALL, F.S.A., and JOSEPH L. PIETERSZ. (Kingston: Institute of Jamaica. 1919. Pp. 115. 2 sh.)

THE interest which attaches to this small volume on *Jamaica under the Spaniards* is out of proportion to its size and appearance; it is in keeping, rather, with its value as announcement and token of successful research made in a virgin field for historical investigation. "Hitherto", Mr. Cundall remarks in the preface, "the names of but three Spanish governors of Jamaica have been recorded. To these seventeen others can now be added, making an almost unbroken chain from Esquivel to